

I want to commend George Whitaker for his steadfast and tireless service to our Nation, first for his over 20 years of military service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and then for his service to veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Vet Center. Countless veterans have benefitted from George's dedication and commitment. Through his own military experiences and combined with his counseling experiences, George has worked directly with veterans and service-members through parts of six decades. This timespan has produced many wars, conflicts, and military operations and with it, changes in health services, problems, and issues that affect our military soldiers and veterans. George has been able to share his own experiences and work with returning service-members as they deal with the physical and mental health impacts of their military experiences, as well as the impacts on their families and communities.

George will now have more time in his retirement to enjoy hunting, fishing, leather crafts, and other pursuits. I commend George for his dedicated service to veterans and wish him and his wife Eddie all the best in his retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN DOUTHITT

● Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I would like to take time to recognize Robin A. Douthitt, who is stepping down as Dean of the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. I would also like to wish her a happy birthday. As a proud alumnus of UW—Madison, it is an honor to congratulate Dean Douthitt on her outstanding and exemplary service at UW over the years.

For the past 12 years, Dean Douthitt has given her unwavering commitment to students, faculty, staff, campus, the community, and the State. She began as a professor in the Consumer Science Department, was appointed Interim Dean of the School of Human Ecology in 1999, and was named Dean in 2001. She will be leaving a legacy of courage and visionary leadership. Dean Douthitt has been called the "People's Dean," because she is always approachable and has touched the lives of many of her colleagues and friends.

Dean Douthitt made countless contributions to the University of Wisconsin during her service. She founded the UW Women's Faculty Mentoring Program that has led to the university's retention of female faculty and has become a model for other universities. She helped establish the Nancy Denney House, a cooperative undergraduate residence for single parents and their children. In recognition of her teaching and publishing extensive research on women's unpaid work and its social value, Dean Douthitt has been named a Vaughan Bascom Professor of Women and Philanthropy and a Vilas Associate in the Social Sciences.

Her contributions at UW do not stop there. Dean Douthitt served on the UW Athletic Board, chairing its Academic Affairs Committee and representing UW faculty to the Big Ten. She has been honored on the School of Human Ecology's Roster of 100 Women—Wall of Honor, in recognition of her contributions to family, community, and her embodiment of the School's mission to improve the quality of human life. In addition, Dean Douthitt provided vision in leading a successful \$52 million effort to renovate the School of Human Ecology's historic 1914 building and build a new addition to ensure the School's continued presence at the forefront of education, research, creative scholarship, and outreach in the 21st century.

On behalf of my constituents from the great State of Wisconsin, we say a heartfelt thank you and happy birthday to Dean Robin A. Douthitt. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I wish to recognize the city of Lafayette. Southern Living magazine has named Lafayette "South's Tastiest Town." Lafayette was chosen as the winning city by nearly 35,000 votes in the first annual competition, with more than 500,000 online votes cast for the 10 finalist cities. Lafayette will be formally recognized in Southern Living's April issue, along with third-place finisher New Orleans. In fact, both Louisiana cities combined to receive nearly half the total votes, and Lafayette received almost 200,000 votes.

Southern Living's top 10 towns were chosen based on a number of criteria: food as a cultural identity, growth of a culinary-minded community, diverse cuisine at a variety of price points, local sustainable food practices, chefs on the rise, and an abundance of significant food events. Clearly, Lafayette excels in all these categories, and I am proud of this achievement.

Lafayette and its people are at the heart of all the great Cajun and Creole qualities that have made Louisiana's cuisine unparalleled. Throughout our State's great history, our unique culinary identity and love of food have been at the center of many of family and friend gatherings. Louisianians take tremendous pride in the dishes that represent our culture, the traditions they symbolize about who we are, and the devotion to preserving our heritage.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the city of Lafayette on this honor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and referred as indicated:

S. 2076. A bill to improve security at State and local courthouses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2204. A bill to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2203. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Education Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2204. A bill to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation; read the first time.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2205. A bill to prohibit funding to negotiate a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that restricts the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 399. A resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr.